4598
LICAIL
VEDICAL
SCHOOL OF HYGIENE
LIBRARY
-1 MAR 1961
AND TROPICAL MED

Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

TO THE

Education Committee

OF THE

Anglesey County Council

1945

W. O. JONES, FOUNDRY PRINTING WORKS, LLANGEFNI

ANGLESEY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

I have the honour of submitting my thirty-third Annual Report upon the School Medical Service in the County.

After the static period of the war years the service is entering a period of new activity and expanded growth.

The new development plan for the County visualizes wider schemes of treatment for all scholars both in the Primary and Secondary Schools.

It is of importance to lay a proper foundation upon which the whole superstructure of future medical treatment schemes must rest.

To what extent the National Health Service Bill will affect the School Medical Service, it is at present difficult to foresee.

I would tender my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the School Welfare Committee for their interest and co-operation in the work of the School Medical Service.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient Servant.

ARNOLD DAVIES.

INTRODUCTION

Sum produced by 1*d.* rate, 1945-46 (estimated) : £700 0*s.* 2*d.*

Number of Elementary Schools in the County	62 (70 departments)
Total Average Attendance	5,145
Number of Scholars examined :	
Routine Examinations	3,348
Special and Re-Examinations	1,200
Number of Routine Inspection Visits	129
Number of Special Visits	121

Visits to Schools include visits for Diphtheria Immunisation.

REPORT OF ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Medical Inspection Findings

The code groups of scholars have been medically examined as well as scholars outside the specified age groups at the request of parents, head teachers or school nurses.

Scholars found at previous inspections to be needing treatment or observation are re-examined periodically until the condition is cured. Scholars who were absent the previous year and missed their routine medical inspection are also examined.

Clothing and Footwear :

Children's footwear continued to be of very inferior quality and it is a credit to the parents that the number of scholars with really dilapidated shoes are so few.

Cleanliness :

The skin condition was almost invariably found to be clean, but no doubt many of the children have a special wash and brush-up on the morning of the inspection. Despite constant attention on the part of the School Nurses, certain children are persistently dirty and harbour nits and vermin.

Nutrition :

Every child examined is assessed as regards his or her state of nutrition. This is often a difficult matter and individual judgements vary. It is now possible to compare the figures today with the previous years' figures. The following table gives the statistics of the four grades for the years 1938, 1944, 1945 :

	Percentages.		
	1938	1944	1945
A	32.20	7.88	16.05
B	48.70	69.54	63.29
C	17.60	21.82	19.95
D	1.50	.76	.71

It will be seen that there is a slight improvement for 1945 compared with 1944 while the really bad cases of malnutrition in 1938 were twice as many as in 1945. This I think is due to the School dinners, which continue to be of a very high standard.

The question of the distribution of iron tonic tablets as suggested in my 1944 report should be considered. About 500 scholars would undoubtedly benefit by this simple treatment. They already receive Halibut Liver Oil Capsules, but this, although very beneficial, would be greatly helped by the iron treatment.

Skin Diseases :

Only 6 cases of scabies were treated at the Minor Ailment Clinics compared with 25 cases last year. Impetigo continues to be the most frequent skin disease ; 154 cases were treated at the Minor Ailment Clinics. Ringworm continues to be only rarely seen ; only 3 cases were met with during the whole course of Medical Inspection.

Ear, Nose and Throat :

There were very few cases of serious trouble due to adenoids enlargement but tonsillitis and chronically inflamed tonsils were found in about the same measure as in former years.

Discharging ears were only met with in 6 cases during Medical Inspection, but 18 cases were treated at the Minor Ailment Clinics. Most of them were chronic cases and came up for treatment periodically usually as the result of colds.

All cases requiring removal of tonsils and adenoids or further Specialist advice or treatment were referred to the E.N.T. Surgeon.

External Eye Disease and Defective Vision :

Several cases of external eye diseases were referred to the Eye Specialist and in most cases sulphathiazole in some form or other was prescribed. A few obstinate cases were referred to the Pathological Laboratory with a view to treatment with penicillin.

About 399 cases needing visual treatment were seen and spectacles were provided to 326 scholars.

Two cases were operated on for squint and one for meibomian cysts. Foreign matter was removed from a scholar's eye at one clinic session.

The provision of spectacles in the County reaches a very high standard. Prompt attention is also given to the repair of damaged glasses.

Heart and Circulation :

All cases of heart murmurs are seen at every inspection visit. There are about 75 to 100 of these cases but only about 12 could be classified " organic ". These are excused drill and the teachers are asked to keep a special eye upon them during playtime.

Lungs :

Asthma and bronchitis continue to be the most frequent defects noted. Thirteen suspected cases of slight lung involvement were referred to the Tuberculosis Officer but none of these were thought to be tubercular. They were kept under observation. Owing to pressure of other work, it was not found possible to continue with the patch testing of further schools.

Orthopaedic :

The total number of scholars suffering from crippling defects is 175 ; 7 cases have received treatment in hospital during the year. The clinic meetings continue to be well attended ; in fact it has been found necessary to have extra sessions at Holyhead so as to avoid over-crowding. Most children with severe orthopaedic defect have already been seen in the Infant Welfare Clinics or by private arrangement. Foot strain and faulty posture are the conditions met with by the School Doctor. Out of the total orthopaedic cases of 175, 64 come under these headings.

Nervous System :

Only 5 children were found to show signs of chorea. Epilepsy in children attending school is uncommon. Eight scholars seen were reported to be troubled with some degree of enuresis.

Mental Defectives :

Practically every school has a few children who are mentally backward. One hundred scholars were actually seen who had some degree of mental defect. In some cases this retarded mental development approaches that of actual feeble-mindedness, and such children are a great problem in the Elementary Schools.

Secondary Schools

All the entrants to these schools were fully examined and all the remaining pupils reviewed as to their general health.

The findings generally were similar to those of the Elementary Schools except that acne was found to be the most common skin complaint.

A large number of the pupils suffer from defective vision.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work was continued during the year, the total number of children completely immunised being 520 under 5 years, and 117 over 5 and under 15, making a total of 637.

O. J. Parry-Edwards.

REPORT OF SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC SURGEON

During 1945 I attended 25 Clinics and saw 399 children. Spectacles were prescribed in 326 cases. A small number of squints were operated on at the C. & A. Infirmary, Bangor, and at the Cottage Hospital Caernarvon. I can only add that the co-operation of the children in wearing their glasses is satisfactory.

G. C. Laszlo.

REPORT OF SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEON

During the past year, dental inspections and treatment sessions have as previously been carried out in each school in turn, and I am sure that in this way many more children receive treatment than would be the case if they had to make a special journey to a clinic in another town or village. Many of the children apply regularly for treatment each time the school is visited, but unfortunately consent is withheld in many cases urgently requiring attention.

The shortage of sweets during the past years has resulted in less dental cases, but many of the children are suffering from spongy, bleeding gums. To some degree this may be due to diet deficiencies, but it is largely the result of a lack of cleanliness, a lack of tooth-brush, and a lack of hard, crisp food.

My thanks again are due to the heads of all these schools and their staffs for their help and co-operation at all times.

Catherine M. Rolant-Thomas.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEON

The work of the E.N.T. dept. is continuing quietly and we are well up-to-date with the tonsils and adenoid operations and occasional consultations.

From all accounts the mothers (who are often the best judges) are satisfied with the operations, which in properly selected cases cause a great improvement in the health of previously ailing children. Once more I would like to emphasise the importance of insipient deafness and ear-ache in the school child—which is so frequently the cause of hearing disability in adult life, and which is then beyond control.

JOHN ROBERTS.

REPORT OF SCHOOL ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

It is very refreshing to see the Orthopaedic Scheme in Anglesey coming up to pre-war conditions, and to feel that in the near future transport etc. will facilitate further the running of the scheme. At the same time it ought to be placed on record that throughout the difficult times a very high standard of work was maintained by those running the scheme.

B. L. MCFARLAND.

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CENTRES

ANNUAL REPORT 1945

CENTRES	Visits	Patients	Treatments	Home Visits	Classes	Children in classes	Sunlight	No. children for Sunlight
Holyhead	40	25	291	70	64	22	363	34
Llangefni	40	20	290	14	19	7		
Amlwch	40	21	268	15	25	3		
Beaumaris	39	7	112	20				
Totals	159	73	961	119	108	32	363	34

G. N. HOLME.

FOLLOWING UP BY THE SCHOOL NURSES, 1945

District	Total Number of Schools in District	Total Average Attend'ce of Schools in District	Number of Examinations of Scholars	Number of Visits to Homes	Number of Visits to Schools	Number of Health Talks to Scholars
Aberffraw	3	239	2,676	114	68	58
Amlwch	3	360	6,087	135	87	164
Beaumaris	1	180	1,572	118	37	18
Bodedern	3	141	1,543	16	52	11
Bodorgan	3	165	1,500	6	60	51
Gwalchmai	4	319	3,430	333	114	
Holyhead L.M.S.	6	1,247	11,604	473	260	16
Llanddona	1	60	408	153	27	81
Llanerchymedd	2	201	2,445		62	33
Llanfaethlu	4	198	2,022	11	73	
Llanfairpwll	2	170	1,781	150	43	6
Llanfechell	3	196	1,952	51	66	10
Llangefni	5	291	4,949	75	122	5
Llangoed	2	117	960	103	35	
Brynsiencyn	2	146	792	147	41	21
Newborough	3	209	2,594	108	64	8
Marianglas	4	188	3,855	35	96	16
Menai Bridge	2	218	1,467	52	63	20
Pentraoth	4	166	1,520	5	67	2
Rhoscolyn	2	113	1,275	14	45	12
Rhosybol	3	130	1,716	13	60	2
Total	62	5,145	56,148	2,112	1,542	534

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

School Closures

The following schools were closed, on account of epidemics of Infectious Diseases, during 1945 :

Scarlet Fever	Carreglefn.
Whooping Cough	Penysarn, Pentraeth, Rhosybol.
Measles	Llanddaniel, Llangaffo, Dwyran, Llansadwrn, Bryngwran.
Chicken Pox	Llanfaethlu.

Exclusion of Scholars

Scarlet Fever	26
Diphtheria	8
Whooping Cough	82
Measles	68
Chicken Pox	31
Mumps	125
Scabies	2
	342

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS 1945

AMLWCH :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No. of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Otorrhea		1	1	5	1		
Impetigo		34	34	103	26	7	1
Eczema		1	1	8	1		
Boils		2	2	2	1	1	
Warts	35	28	63	909	21		42
Minor injuries		381	381	674	350	17	14
	35	447	482	1,701	400	25	57

BEAUMARIS :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No. of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Cards C.E.F.	12	13	25	220	15	10	
Otorrhea		2	2	10	2		
Scabies		1	1	5	1		
Impetigo		18	18	113	16	2	
Boils		3	3	15	3		
Warts	17	25	42	399	34	6	2
Minor injuries	6	75	81	475	76	5	
Miscellaneous		8	8	33	8		
	35	145	180	1,270	155	23	2

HOLYHEAD :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No. of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Cards C.E.F.	14	50	64	163	32	5	27
Blepharitis	5	11	16	56	13		3
Sty		1	1	1	1		
Otorrhea	2	9	11	42	8		3
Impetigo	8	20	28	97	26	1	1
Boils		4	4	6	4		
Rash		2	2	2	2		
Warts	17	30	47	153	28		19
Chilblains		1	1	1	1		
Minor injuries	21	157	178	445	153	2	23
Miscellaneous		8	8	18	8		
	67	293	360	984	276	8	76

LLANGEFNI :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No. of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Otorrhea		3	3	28	3		
Impetigo	3	14	17	63	17		
Boils		3	3	13	3		
Rash		2	2	2	2		
Warts		4	4	21	4		
Minor injuries	2	42	44	119	43		1
	5	68	73	246	72		1

MENAI BRIDGE :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No. of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Cards C.E.F.		2	2	5	1	1	
Ringworm		1	1	3	1		
Scabies		2	2	6			2
Impetigo	3	5	8	72	5	1	2
Eczema		1	1	23	1		
Ganglion		2	2	10	1		1
Warts	9	21	30	335	24	1	5
Minor injuries	1	51	52	232	45	2	5
Miscellaneous		3	3	16	2		1
	13	88	101	702	80	5	16

RURAL :

AILMENT	Old Cases	New Cases	Total No of Cases	Attendances	Cured	Improved	Under Treatment
Cards C.E.F.	16	34	50	165	39	4	7
Blepharitis	9	3	12	109	3		9
Otorrhea		1	1	3		1	
Ringworm	1	3	4	17	4		
Scabies		3	3	22	3		
Impetigo	2	47	49	112	46	1	2
Boils	1	9	10	24	9	1	
Rash		5	5	14	5		
Warts	63	59	122	640	60	2	60
Chilblains		2	2	2	2		
Minor injuries	19	434	453	1,105	432	1	20
Miscellaneous		1	1	1	1		
	111	601	712	2,214	604	10	98

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

Return of defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended 31st December, 1945 :

A : Requiring Treatment ;
B : Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring Treatment.

Disease or Defect		Primary Schools				Secondary Schools	
		Routine		Special			
		A	B	A	B	A	B
Skin :	1 Ringworm—Scalp			1	1		1
	2 Ringworm—Body	1	....	1	3		
	3 Scabies	2	1		4	1	—
	4 Impetigo		1	1			
	5 Other diseases not T.B.	1	9	1		1	4
Eye :	6 Blepharitis	2	4	4	11	3	3
	7 Conjunctivitis	1		1	2		
	8 Keratitis						
	9 Corneal Opacities				....		
	10 Other conditions	1	2	2	4		...
	11 Defective Vision	99	46	84	60	121	58
	12 Squint	24	13	8	9	11	..
Ear :	13 Defective Hearing	7	10	4	6	1	3
	14 Otitis Media		6	6	10		5
	15 Other ear diseases		4		3	2	
Nose and Throat	16 Chronic Tonsillitis only	20	100	35	155	4	59
	17 Adenoids only	4	10	5	9		2
	18 Chronic T. and A.	18	61	29	37	2	1
	19 Other conditions	2	1	3	1	4	2
	20 Enlarged Cervical Glands		24	1	14	3	13
	21 Defective Speech	3	9	.....	15		4
Heart :	22 Organic	1	1	1	3		3
	23 Functional	....	16		23		28
	24 Anaemia	....	....	....	...		...
	24a Debility	10	289	11	226	11	120
Lungs :	25 Bronchitis		85		69		25
	26 Other non T.B.	1	6	1	2		2
Tuberculosis :	27 Pulmonary						...
	28 Do.—suspected	5	28	6	25	2	21
	29 Non-pulmonary glands		1		6	1	1
	30 Bones and joints			...	1		
	31 Skin						
	32 Other	....					
Nervous System:	33 Epilepsy		4		3		
	34 Chorea		3		1		
	35 Other conditions		3		2		3

Disease or Defect	Primary Schools				Secondary Schools	
	Routine		Special			
	A	B	A	B	A	B
Deformities: 36 Rickets				1		
37 Spinal curvature		13		7		6
38 Other forms	5	12	4	39	1	6
39 Mental	.....	42	3	55	.....	.....
40 Other diseases, etc.		8	5	22	...	15
41 Cards C.E.F.		63		101		19

TABLE I

Medical Inspections of Pupils attending maintained Primary and Secondary Schools

A—Routine Medical Inspections:

(1) No. of Inspections:

Entrants	695
Second Age Group	649
Third Age Group	2,004
Total	3,348

(2) No. of other Routine Inspections

Grand Total	3,348

B—Other Inspections:

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections:

Grand Total	1,200

TABLE II

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups

Age Groups	No. of Children Insp'ted	(a) (Excellent)		(b) (Normal)		(c) (Slightly sub-normal)		(d) (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	695	88	12.66	418	60.15	184	26.47	5	.72
Middles	649	76	11.71	398	61.33	172	26.50	3	.46
Leavers	714	103	14.42	444	62.19	152	21.29	15	2.10
Secondary	1,290	270	20.93	859	66.59	160	12.40	1	.08
Total	3,348	537	16.05	2,119	63.29	668	19.95	24	.71

TABLE III

Group I—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness):

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme	1,766

Group II—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint:

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	389
Other defect or disease of the eyse (excluding those recorded in Group I	10
Total	399

	Under the Authority's Scheme
No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were:	
(a) Prescribed	326
(b) Obtained	326

Group III—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat:

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Received Operative treatment	84
Received other forms of treatment	14
Total number treated	98

TABLE IV

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the dentist:	
(a) Routine age-groups	5,477
(b) Specials	
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	5,477
(2) Number found to require treatment	4,201
(3) Number actually treated	2,112
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	3,188
(5) Half-days devoted to:	
Inspection	120
Treatment	302
Total	422

(6) Fillings :	
Permanent teeth	900
Temporary teeth	
Total	900
(7) Extractions :	
Permanent teeth	194
Temporary teeth	2,694
Total	2,888
(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions	
(9) Other operations :	
Permanent teeth	323
Temporary teeth	
Total	323

TABLE V

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS

(i) Average number of visits made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised persons	24.87
(ii) Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	56,148
(iii) Number of *individual* pupils found unclean	141

TABLE VI

BLIND AND DEAF PUPILS

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf pupils who are **not** at the present time being educated in a Special School. The return should relate to all such pupils including evacuees resident in the Authority's area :

	(1) At a Maintained Primary or Secondary School	(2) At an Institution other than a Special School	(3) At no School or Institution
Blind Pupils			1
Deaf Pupils	1		

1961